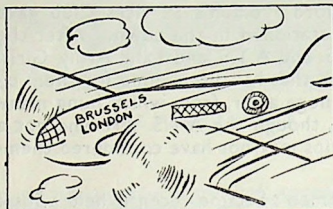


## WAR SERVICE

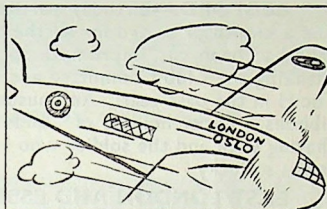


## NEWS SHEET

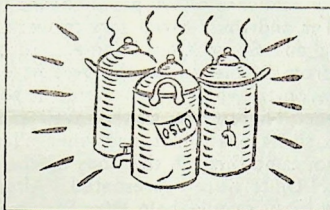
### TOC H IN NORWAY.



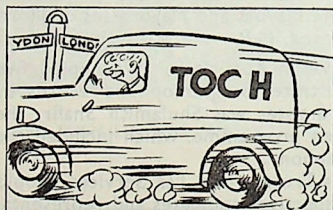
Toc H was asked last month to open a Services Club for British and Allied Troops in Norway. Arthur Edgar, Toc H Commissioner for N.W. Europe, flew to London and within 48 hours was in Oslo.



The urgency of his immediate cable for three thermostatic tea urns set Toc H H.Q. on its toes. The urns were procured



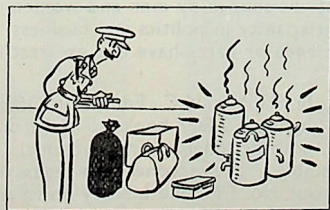
in record time; providence arranged that one of the 15 cwt. vans was standing outside H.Q. The urns were loaded up.



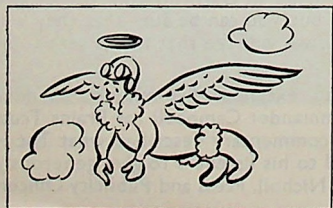
A certain mad Irishman beat the speed record to Croydon Airfield; the magic name of Toc H—plus a little Irish blarney—got past the sentries.



Waiting for his plane was Brigadier Foster of Army Welfare. Though somewhat startled he proved more than



willing to increase his personal luggage with such a contribution to the welfare, not only of the Army, but of all the other Services.



The language of the pilot wouldn't print, but Toc H prevails where greater names fail, and the urns, in the charge of the Brigadier, flew away to Norway, to become an essential part of Toc H Services Club, Oslo.



**STOKE-ON-TRENT** Services Club celebrated its first birthday on the 30th June with a party for the 200 voluntary workers who have given so much of their leisure time to make the Club the cheerful place it is. As a mark of appreciation the food for the party was given, prepared and served by the Royal Army Catering Corps. No less than four iced birthday cakes appeared; one was the gift of the baker who supplies the Club's bread; the convalescent hospital whose patients spend much of their time in the Club sent a second. A short service preceded the party and after tea a concert party came along and entertained the audience for an hour or more. This was followed by dancing. The noises of evident enjoyment attracted a group of uninvited guests (see photograph) and Mr. A. E. Gray, Chairman of the Club Committee, had to tell them regretfully but firmly that it was not their party to-day. The citizens of Stoke-on-Trent take a great interest in the Services Club. The main lounge has been decorated with really beautiful murals representing classical ballets painted by the fifth form girls of the local High School. In the Club canteen, which holds 120 at a sitting, an average number of lunches on a Saturday is 80. A specimen lunch is steamed fish with parsley sauce, fried potatoes and a green vegetable, a hot sweet with jam and a cup of tea—elevenpence. Amongst the thousands of visitors from overseas have been Dominion soldiers and airmen, Dutch, Poles, West Indians and men of the Palestine Police Force.

**BEDFORD.**—Birthday parties seem to be in vogue and Bedford Women's Services Club gave one a month or so ago for all the Services girls and their friends stationed in the town. After the cake had been cut, impromptu speeches were made by W.A.A.F.S. and A.T.S. and Land Army Girls, thanking the Club Committee and helpers for the party and for all that had been done for them by Toc H in the past year. An unusual feature was the prize cake, a huge affair, from which hung many ribbons. Lucky holders of "ends" pulled a prize from the cake, though the A.T.S. girl who got a shaving stick and the soldier who 'pulled' himself a card of hairgrips may not have considered themselves so lucky.

**EAST LONDON AND ESSEX** Areas of Toc H and the Women's Section recently held a Joint Area Festival at Seven Kings, and an audience of 400 people heard two speakers talk on War Services work and the future of Toc H. Tea and the Festival service were followed by a Pageant of Light, a presentation by members of Ilford and Seven Kings Women's Section, of famous women who have kindled Light through the Ages, from Bethlehem to the present day. The Madonna (seated centre stage), kindled the light for St. Veronica, who in turn passed it to St. Ethelburga, and to St. Clare, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth Fry, Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell and Toc H of to-day. A chorus of women's voices accompanied this silent enactment, and when all the lamps were lit on the stage a procession of banners, two by two, came through the body of the Hall to stand in impressive array before the stage. Thirteen Toc H Units were represented. After the Pageant, many Unit representatives were anxious to know if they could help War Services S.E.A.C. appeal, and all sorts of money-raising functions were promised. The guests included the Mayors and Mayoresses of Ilford and of Leyton, Councillor and Mrs. John Barker and Major Hutchinson, M.P.

**READING** Toc H Services Club held another Musical Festival in April last. It occupied five successive nights, and had an admirable send off with a lecture, illustrated on gramophone records, by Ralph Hill, the B.B.C. Music Critic. Among the distinguished artistes was Shulamith Shafir, the celebrated pianist. The Festival ended with a recorded Beethoven programme, which included the Overture Leonora No. 1, the 4th Piano Concerto and the 7th Symphony.

The same Club also held a highly successful Political Brains Trust, when 123 Services people crowded into the Music Room to hear two of the three local prospective candidates and representatives of other parties discuss questions sent in by men and women of the Forces. Questions covered a wide range of subjects, from Christianity in politics and business, to export trade, full employment and high wages, and, should conscience or party have the greatest influence on a Member's vote in a division.

**BOOKS WANTED.**—Lieut. N. Fishbur, M.C., Education Officer, 8th Armoured Brigade, B.L.A., has sent us a personal appeal. "It needs 2,500 books to make one mobile library for this Brigade. All types of literature are needed, both fictional and non-fictional. Standard works of reference and atlases would also be very acceptable. If everyone who reads this letter would send one book I should soon have enough to start our No. 1 Mobile Library on its way, and be able to start on No. 2. The thanks of the soldiers who read the books during the long nights in Germany this winter will probably never reach the generous individuals who give us books, but you can be sure that they will be appreciated." If your bookshelves can subscribe to this appeal, we will see that books sent to us reach Lieutenant Fishburn.

**TOC H WAR SERVICES APPEAL FILM.**—There is an excellent five-minute, 35 m.m. sound film available at H.Q. The commentary is spoken by Commander Campbell (of Brains Trust fame). The film shows our fighting men in the Jungle, and the commentary describes what Toc H tries to do for them. Commander Campbell ends with an appeal to his listeners to give generously whenever they see a Toc H collecting tin. All enquiries to Mrs. G. Nicholl, Press and Publicity Officer, Toc H Headquarters, 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

## STOKE-ON-TRENT SERVICES CLUB.



THE MEN'S LOUNGE.



ROUND THE NOTICE BOARD.



THE MAIN LOUNGE (SHOWING MURALS).



CUTTING THE BIRTHDAY CAKE.



CONVALESCENT GUESTS WITH THE PADRES.



Mr. A. E. GRAY WITH THE GATE-CRASHERS.



## AND NOW—TOC H POST-WAR!

**WAR SERVICE REMAINS.**—The major war in Europe is won—but peace is still a long way off. In the Far East enormous and increasing effort for a long time may be needed before the Japanese are beaten, as they must be. Nearer home the Armies of Occupation are taking up their stations—for how many years of duty? At home Demobilisation is going to be a long and difficult process. Millions of men and women cannot yet exchange uniform for 'civvies.' In other words, the 'War Service' of Toc H to the three fighting Services is still urgently called for and must be maintained. We are confident that many of the friends who have so long stood by this work will help to maintain it for a while longer.

**PEACE-MAKING.**—Peace has to be made, and, as we already see, it is as difficult and dangerous a task as making war; it is likely to take a good deal longer. In this peace-making world, so confusing to the plain man and woman, Toc H has its part to play. Born in the first World War, Toc H was tried out—and not found wanting—by thousands of men and women for twenty years of peace before World War No. 2. For Toc H is a way of thinking and living, and the Clubs and Canteens of Toc H in all theatres of war during the last six years are a natural outcome of that way. *They are only one of the jobs Toc H has done; they are not Toc H itself.*

**WHAT IS OUR REAL AIM?**—Toc H is a peace-maker. Its true job is, and always has been, making peace—in other words, bringing people to know each other and, in company with each other, to seek and do God's will. Its method is as simple as possible. *Friendship* is the aim—and men can't be friends if they don't meet. The little local Branch of Toc H (there were 1,500 of them for men and some hundreds for women, in every Continent, before the war) brings people together regularly. It does not regard differences of race, class, income, education, political opinion or Christian conviction as obstacles; it enjoys them and uses them as a rich variety of contributions to the common stock of the Toc H 'family.' This mixture can only be kept sweet by a strong foundation of faith, by much give-and-take and a lively sense of humour. But the effort is well worth making. If nations would make it, in the same spirit, would another world war be conceivable?

**WHAT IS OUR WORK?**—Toc H brings people together by *Service*. It builds up little teams of friends—but a team has no meaning unless it plays a game. The game of Toc H is playing "the good neighbour," or, in more formal words, voluntary social service to the community in any direction where opportunity opens a way. The directions already have been legion—from Scouting to serving on the Town Council, from digging an invalid's garden on a Saturday afternoon to years of service in a Leper colony.

Let us be outspoken about the motive underlying Friendship and Service in Toc H. This is not spare-time amusement or mere 'philanthropy.' It is based much deeper, on the Christian conviction that this is the kind of way in which God means men and women to live and work together.

**WHAT NEXT?**—With its younger members away on active service and their elders at home busy with war work, Toc H has been hard put to it to keep its Branch life going, but in most cases has succeeded. Now the young members are coming back, bringing with them a great reinforcement of new men and women who have met Toc H for the first time in our Services Clubs, in "Circles" on board ship or in the desert, or in Prisoner of War camps. Their eagerness to join the 'family' and begin work with it is beyond doubt. And their work will be to help build, in whatever way they can, that better world for all, of which so much has been said, so little yet done.

**BUILDERS ALL.**—There is also, we hope and believe, another big reinforcement to the life and work of Toc H coming from among those who have steadily and generously backed its war work, not only with their money but with their minds and hearts. We need the same help and understanding now for new jobs—the tasks of peace, no less urgent than those of war.

When the war broke out Toc H decided to stake all it had on War Service, to 'go broke' if need be, in the doing of a job which challenged it. Now that peace is breaking out Toc H faces old tasks and great new opportunities with the same determination and with most inadequate means. Members are giving what they can, often more than they can, and they are sure that many others will stand by them as Toc H Builders.

If anyone who reads this page would like to know more, literature and particulars of the "Toc H Builders" scheme, already well established, will gladly be supplied by the Builders' Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

Barclay Baron, Editor of the *Toc H Journal*.